

# ORBA Steering Committee Notes

## April 24, 2017

### Items for Discussion:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Adoption of agenda
- Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
- Report from the Chairperson (Harry Stone)
- Reports from the other committee members
  - update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)
  - update from Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)
  - update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)
  - update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)
- Reports from the working group leaders
  - Sustainable Growth And Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
  - Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
  - Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
  - Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
- Unfinished business
  - Status of Thomas More College fiscal sponsorship
  - Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
  - ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville/Chris Lorentz)
  - Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
  - Need for communications and public relations leadership
- New business
  - Graphic for communicating ORBA roles and funding flows
- Adjournment

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

Present: Harry Stone, Mike Steinmaus, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Brian Farkas, Laurel Cornell, John King, Chuck Somerville, John Stark, Kari Mackenbach, Marty Hettel, Megan Thompson, Brandon Brummett, Jim Lazorchak

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

### **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Minutes were not available and will be approved at the next meeting.

### **Report from the Chairperson [with input from Richard Harrison (ORSANCO Executive Director), Brandon Brummett (USACE), and Chuck Somerville, ORBA Vice Chairperson]**

- An April 12 meeting was held in Huntington with USACE, ORSANCO, and ORBA. Attending were: COL Philip Secrist, COL Chris Beck, Bruce Scott ORSANCO Commissioner (KY); Ron Lovan, ORSANCO Chairman (KY); Ron Potesta, ORSANCO Secretary/Treasurer (WV); Stuart Bruny, ORSANCO Commissioner (OH); Richard Harrison, ORSANCO Executive Director; Sharon Bond, USACE, Chief, Planning Branch (Louisville District); Amy Franz, Planning Branch Chief (Huntington District), Cheryl Grimes, USACE; Brandon Brummett, USACE; Harry Stone, ORBA Chairperson; and Chuck Somerville, ORBA Vice-Chairperson.
- USACE expressed their two intents:
  - Give the Ohio River Basin (ORB) a voice. This gap in the Ohio River Basin has resulted in an inability to get things done basin wide.
  - With Federal resources in decline, smaller projects do not get attention unless there is a conglomerate sponsor for regional/national justification. A conglomerate nonfederal sponsor to communicate regional and national interest is needed and important.
- Richard Harrison introduced himself as ORSANCO Executive Director for the past two years. He stated that he had found the basin relationships to be perplexing. Richard had requested the meeting with the USACE and ORBA to get clarity around the relationships. ORSANCO is exploring a more significant role in the ORBA basin wide initiative. Richard was wanting to ensure a good understanding of USACE interests and how ORSANCO fits into things.
- Key commissioners in were in the meeting. This was the first meeting of this type with leadership of ORSANCO. Richard was seeking to ensure that the USACE was on board ORSANCO pursuing a larger role. In response, COL Secrist indicated that the USACE would be good with ORSANCO and ORBA developing the approach.
- ORSANCO expressed interest in their existing collaborations serving as a mechanism for water quality input to the high priority regional challenges and Ohio River Basin Strategy. ORSANCO described their breadth of collaboration in the ORB with three Commissioners from each of eight states plus three Presidential appointees. They have strong collaboration around water quality and monitoring, but also have other areas where they facilitate collaboration, for example, their water resources committee. This work parallels some of ORBA's activities.

- Consensus was that it is important to have unified perspective being expressed for the region. There was discussion about ORSANCO, USACE, and ORBA going in together to talk with legislators.
- It was requested that Harry “draw a picture” of ORBA’s role in collaboration and how funds would flow. A first cut was provided to ORBA leadership for comment.
- Richard and Harry were asked to meet and develop an approach for a strong relationship between ORSANCO and ORBA.
- Last Friday, Harry and Richard met to discuss the relationship and path forward. The discussion focused on respective interests. ORBA has an interest in being the lead for collaboration where they have existing collaborative groups, e.g., water quality and monitoring. They would like to see ORBA utilize similar existing collaborations in other areas. These existing collaborations could refine goals and high priority challenges in the respective areas and provide them to ORBA for inclusion in the ORB Regional Strategy. This approach seems to fit very well with ORBA’s desired approach of identifying champions and organizations with strategic interest in the high priority challenges.
- Next Friday (April 28), Harry, Richard, and Chris Lorentz will meet to further refine the relationships, including fiscal sponsorship.

### **Reports from other committee members**

- Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)
  - The balance at the beginning of 2015 was \$7420 (rounded). In 2017 there has been \$450 added to the account and \$749 in expenses have been paid (rounded). Current balance is \$7121.52 AEEP check is still needed. Credit card incomes still needs to be transferred from the USACE into the West Virginia account.
  - Chuck Somerville recommended that Harry’s travel for ORBA be reimbursed. Brian established a Finance Committee for review. Harry is to send expenses to Brian. If approved by the Committee, Harry will be reimbursed.
- Update from Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)
  - Old web site not yet migrated over. New site starting to take shape. Megan will make changes to the site when they are needed. Gus’s last day is Friday.
  - Two areas for on-going Website activity were noted:
    - The old url needs to be changed to point to the new site and the old site needs to be shut down.
    - The idea of having collaborating member logos/links on the new site needs to be explored.
- Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)
  - Steering committee meeting in DC looking at next steps for next cycle of report card planned for 2020. They want to do things differently. They are looking at a few big areas: Recreation, Energy Generation, Economic, and Environmental Quality.
  - Another big thing: not enough was included about what is going well. AWI wants to celebrate things that are working well. Funding for AWI is big piece of the

puzzle for the next iteration. USACE was represented at the AWI meeting. It is possible that Planning Assistance to States funding might be used. AWI is coordinating meetings in basin. Next meeting will be Sept 27 - 29. ORBA, ORBCRE, AWI.

- Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)
  - No report

### **Reports from working group leaders**

- Sustainable Growth And Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
  - No report
- Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
  - No report
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
  - Sarah has a communication ready to go out. Needs the updated Working Group contact list. Harry will send it.
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
  - Narrowed down to few priorities. One or two major priorities - identifying champions.

### **Unfinished business**

- Status of Thomas More College fiscal sponsorship
  - Harry needs to speak to an attorney regarding this matter.

These items were not discussed due to lack of time:

- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
- ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville/Chris Lorentz)
- Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
- Need for communications and public relations leadership

### **New Business**

- Graphic for communicating ORBA roles and funding flows
- Change the date of the next call to 5/22/17 due to the Memorial Day holiday.

### **Adjournment**